

Remarks

The present application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/839,974 filed on April 24, 1997, which application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/651,977 filed on May 21, 1996. Accordingly, the specification has been amended to make reference to the parent application and to cancel the claims directed at the zipper strip and leave for consideration the claims directed at the method for attaching the zipper strip to thermoplastic sheet material and the method for making reclosable packages.

The application has also been amended to clarify the claims and to add new claims which give the Applicant the full scope of patent protection to which it is entitled.

Claim 4 as originally drafted was unnecessarily limited by requiring the flange to be oriented in the direction of motion of the thermoplastic sheet. Accordingly, this limitation has been deleted from claim 4 and has been incorporated into new independent claim 11. It is believed that claims 4 and 11 as amended herein are patentably distinguishable from the prior art.

New claims 12 and 13 have been added which are directed at alternate methods of making a reclosable package. Both claims are clearly supported by the specification and no new matter has been added. It is believed that claims 12 and 13 are patentably

distinguishable from the prior art.

New claims 14, 15 and 16 have been added which are directed at the reclosable package of Figure 8. All three claims are clearly supported by the specification and no new matter has been added. It is believed that claims 14, 15 and 16 are patentably distinguishable from the prior art.

An early action and early indication of allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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